

# WHEELING FIRE DEPARTMENT

## QUARTERLY REPORT

**2ND QUARTER 2021**



### 2nd QUARTER CALLS FOR SERVICE

Fire – <b>22</b>	Service Calls – <b>242</b>
Explosion/Overheat (no fire) – <b>10</b>	Good Intent Calls – <b>154</b>
Medical/EMS – <b>1,323</b>	Severe Weather – <b>2</b>
Hazardous Condition – <b>23</b>	Special Type/Other – <b>1</b>
False Alarm – <b>193</b>	

**TOTAL Calls: 1,970**

### BLAZIER PROMOTED TO FIRE CHIEF



In May, City Manager Robert Herron appointed James "Jim" Blazier as the department's 15<sup>th</sup> Fire Chief.

Chief Blazier has been employed at the Wheeling Fire Department since January 1989. Most recently, he served the last 12 years as Assistant Chief for the training division.

He assumed command as "C-1" on June 18.

Congratulations, Chief Blazier!

### HELMS RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS



After 35 years of service, Larry Helms retired as the Chief of the Wheeling Fire Department on Friday, June 18.

Helms joined WFD in 1986 and was appointed Chief in 2007. Throughout his tenure, he worked tirelessly to enhance the department in many ways, including training: staffing, upgrading the fleet, EMS enhancements, station upgrades, and, most recently, a new fire headquarters.

Chief Helms is a compassionate person with a calming demeanor - even during a stressful emergency. Best wishes, Chief, we will miss you!

### SUMMER STORMS

Torrential rains caused roadway flooding throughout the Elm Grove and Springdale neighborhoods on June 30.

Many city streets were closed and had to be cleared of mud and debris by WFD and city operations. Additionally, a power outage, caused by a downed tree, left thousands without electricity for hours.



That same day, a lightning strike also was reported in the East Wheeling area. No major damage occurred, and no injuries were reported during the storm.

# NEW RECRUIT CLASS

On June 28, the department welcomed 10 new recruits to the Wheeling Fire Department. All took their oath in council chambers from City Clerk BJ Delbert. They will begin several weeks of basic training with Assistant Chief Dave Harmon.



**First Row:** Richard Johnston, Dawson Kemp, Courtney Engle, William Ulrich, Brandon McFarland

**Second Row:** Hayden Johnston, Sean Conner, Christopher Peterson, Howard Henry, James Francis II

# RECOGNITION CEREMONY

WFD and the police department held a long overdue recognition ceremony June 17 inside WesBanco Arena.

Employee's retirements, milestones and commendations were recognized at the first in-person joint gathering since the fall of 2019.



# SPRING 2021



Multi-Vehicle Crash  
Sunday, April 4  
I-70 / I-470 eastbound merge



Brush Fire  
Tuesday, April 6  
North Park Apartments

In addition to Chief Larry Helms, WFD honored several retiring members of the department this quarter. Thank you for serving, and best wishes!



**Capt. Carl Mueller** - 39 years  
**Lt. Christopher Derrow** - 22 years  
**Capt. William Ulrich** - 28 years (not pictured)



**Capt. Raymond McKenzie** - 40 years  
**Lt. Philip Saseen** - 45 years  
**Asst. Chief Anthony Campbell** - 32 years